

A Guide for Candidate Fund Raising Activities in Missouri

This guide is intended only as a summary to aid understanding of the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law. For the Law's complete requirements, consult the Law itself, codified at Chapter 130 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri.

CANDIDATE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Contribution

A contribution includes a payment, gift, loan, advance, deposit, or donation of money or anything of value. A contribution of anything of value shall be deemed to have a monetary value equal to the fair market value.

In-Kind Contribution

An in-kind contribution is a contribution in a form other than money. It is the responsibility of the campaign to report the value of an in-kind contribution. The in-kind value should be the fair market value. (What someone else would pay for the same thing.)

Anonymous Contribution

No anonymous contribution in excess of \$25 shall be accepted by any candidate or candidate committee. The candidate is required to transmit the amount which exceeds \$25 to the state treasurer. The maximum aggregate amount of anonymous contributions which shall be accepted in any calendar year shall be the greater of \$500 or 1% of all contributions received in the same calendar year.

Required Contributor Information

No candidate or candidate committee shall accept any contribution, which in the aggregate is in excess of \$25, from any person without obtaining the contributor's name, address, employer or occupation if self-employed, and the date of the contribution.

Date Contribution Received

Unless a contribution is rejected by the candidate or candidate committee and returned to the donor within 10 business days after its receipt, it shall be considered accepted on the date received, not the date deposited in the bank, and must be reported in the period in which it was received.

Contractual Relationship Reporting

A candidate shall make a reasonable effort to obtain and report a description of any contractual relationship over \$500 between a contributor and the political entity in which the candidate is seeking election.

Fundraising Event

A fundraising event includes but is not limited to such activities as a dinner, luncheon, reception, coffee, testimonial, rally, auction or similar affair through which contributions are solicited or received by such means as the purchase of tickets, payment of attendance fees, donations for prizes or through the purchase of goods, services or political merchandise.

When is a Statement of Fundraising Activity Required?

If a candidate or candidate committee during a fundraising event accepts contributions from individuals whose names and addresses cannot be ascertained, the amount will not be deemed anonymous contributions provided certain conditions are met:

1. There are 25 or more contributing participants for the event;
2. An announcement is made that it is illegal for anyone to make a contribution in excess of \$100 unless accompanied by the name, address, employer/occupation of the contributor;
3. The person responsible for conducting the event does not knowingly accept payment from any single person of more than \$25 unless accompanied by the required information;
4. A statement describing the event is prepared and filed with the committee's disclosure report, and it shall include the following information in addition to and not in lieu of other requirements of the campaign finance disclosure law:
 - a. Name and mailing address of the person responsible for conducting the event and the name and address of the candidate for whom the funds were raised;
 - b. Date of event;
 - c. Name and address of the location where the event occurred and the approximate number of participants in the event;
 - d. Brief description of the type of event and the fundraising methods used;
 - e. Gross receipts from the event and a listing of the expenditures incident to the event;
 - f. Total dollar amount of contributions received from participants whose names and addresses were not obtained and an explanation of why it was not possible to obtain the names and addresses of such participants;
 - g. Total dollar amount of contributions received from participants in the event who are identified by name, address, employer/occupation in the records required to be maintained.